

## SEED POTATOES

From B. K. Bliss & Sons' Potato Catalogue.

## COMPTON'S SURPRISE.

This wonderful Potato, wonderful for its fine quality and productiveness, is a seedling of the Prince Albert, fertilized with the pollen of the Long Pinkeye. The first year from seed there were four Potatoes weighing one-half pound. The following Spring these were cut to single eyes, and planted on poor soil. The product of the half pound was three hundred and sixty-one pounds, sixty-two pounds of beautiful tubers being picked from the surface of a measured rod, as it is a peculiarity of this Potato that they often mature a crop on the surface under the foliage. The next season they were planted by soil, from which a poor crop had been taken the previous year, and, although the old season was very unfavorable, this seedling yielded six times more than the Rose and other old sorts planted by soil, and remained sound, while the old varieties rotted badly. These Potatoes are naturally round to the center, a hollow one having never yet been found. It is a late variety, ripening with the Peacock. Its shape is oval-oblong, eyes sixteen, green prominent, skin smooth, color reddish-purple, flesh white; grows to a large size. It is believed to be much the most abundant in starch of any variety extant. It retains its quality perfectly throughout the year, appearing on the table like a ball of flour. The high quality of this Potato late in Spring may, perhaps, be owing to its tardiness in sprouting, remaining plump and free from sprouts when kept until June, and never having that withered appearance common to early sorts.

The following extract from the report of the Committee awarding the premiums offered in 1872, confirms all that was claimed for them by the originator when first introduced:

Compton's Surprise has received the unanimous verdict for the most prolific Potato cultivated at present. A bushel of from twelve to twenty pounds to the hill are reported by the hundreds, and in one instance 281 pounds were dug from one hill. As a rule, the most prolific varieties are not of the best eating quality, but in this, Compton's Surprise is an exception. Theorists have testified that they never ate a better Potato. Its uniform mealiness of grain, combined with the purest flavor and its snowy whiteness of flesh, which is not in the least affected by the blue skin, can not fail to make it highly valuable as a family Potato. This variety shows a peculiar tendency to produce a surface crop, not found in other kinds.

Two years ago we paid \$15 for one bushel of the above Seed Potatoes.

## EXTRA EARLY VERMONT.

The superior merits of this variety, first sent out by us in the Spring of 1873, may now be considered as fully established. It has been largely cultivated over every section of the country, the past two seasons, and fully sustains the high character given it by the committee for awarding the premium offered by us in 1873, in the following statement, after examining the reports of the various competitors:

"THE EARLY VERMONT has, as proved by the unanimous report before us, more than sustained its previous reputation. *Nearly all the competitors declare it from one to two weeks earlier than the Early Rose, and many even more.* Its uniform and large size is recognized by every one. Mr. McLeod says: 'There are more than 100 in the amount I raised that would weigh from one to two pounds each'; and Mr. Saffer raised one tuber that weighed **ELEVEN POUNDS TWELVE OUNCES**. His superior cooking qualities are unanimously commended, as well as its compact growth in the hill and its freedom from disease, and with the thousands of cultivators who have grown it alongside the Early Rose, there seems to be no doubt left, that in quality, hardness, earliness and yield, it far surpasses all other varieties."

A first-class certificate was awarded this variety by the Royal Horticultural Society of London, 1873.

**CAUTION.**—In consequence of the great similarity between the EXTRA EARLY VERMONT and the EARLY ROSE, many of the latter will doubtless be offered by unprincipled persons as the EARLY VERMONT. To avoid imposition, we caution purchasers to beware of Ringerian peddlers, and purchase their stock of reliable parties only. We employ no peddlers or agents. All orders directly to our house.

Both of these varieties were sold at \$4.50 a bushel last year. We now offer them at \$2.00 per bushel, cash on delivery.

THE TANITE CO., Stroudsburg, Pa.

October 7, 1873—15.]

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